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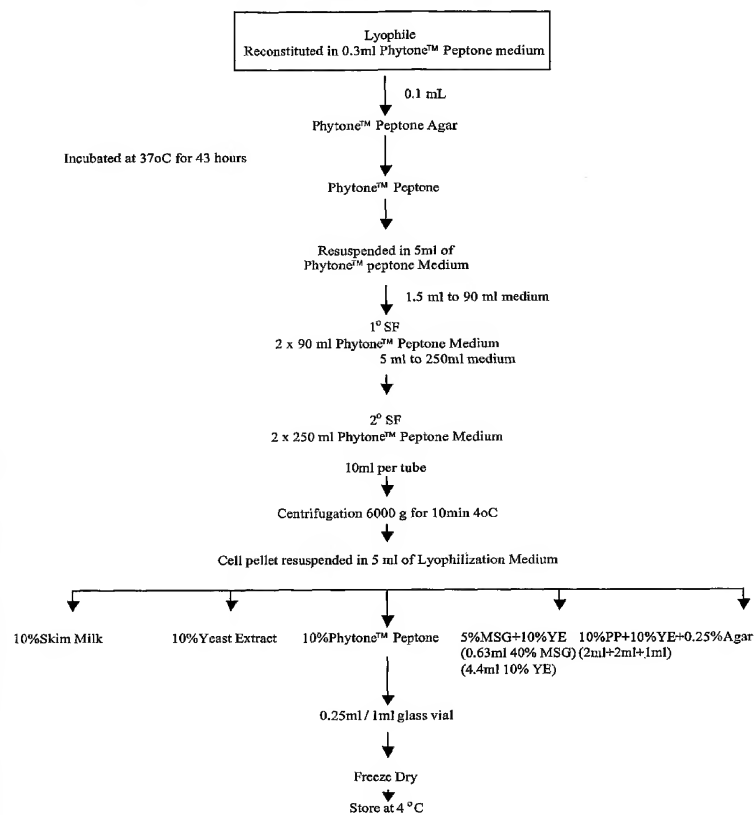
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(54) Title: CRYO-PROTECTIVE AGENTS FOR MICROORGANISMS

A flow diagram outlining the preparation and lyophilization of a *C. diphtheriae* culture.



(57) Abstract: A lyophilization medium for a microorganism is provided wherein the medium is substantially free of animal-derived products and comprises yeast extract and monosodium glutamate. The lyophilisation medium can be used for cryoprotection of strains of bacteria such as *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. Method for preparing a freeze-dried culture of a microorganism using the lyophilization medium, and lyophiles of microorganisms are also provided.

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